And let us kind of weigh what we have here. Let us weigh what we have. We have the potentiality in terms of the human condition that I think is as monumental as anything we can possibly contemplate. Again, we can talk about tens of millions and hundreds of millions, but I ask each of my colleagues to focus on one, someone who they know. But then what are we weighing that against? We are weighing that against stopping somatic cell nuclear transfer. That is what it is, somatic cell nuclear transfer. It is not an embryo. It is not the creation of life.

There are issues, and I think very serious ethical, moral issues, about using embryos for stem cell research, and we can talk about them. And I think we take this issue seriously. I think all Members take it seriously. We do not take it lightly at all. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), I think, spoke as well as I have ever heard anyone speak about this on this floor, that by any concept of what we have talked about, a sperm and an egg joining for the potentiality of the creation of a unique human being. That is not what somatic cell nuclear transfer is about.

Somatic cell nuclear transfer is the taking an egg that is not fertilized, taking out the 23 chromosomes and literally, literally taking one of the several trillion, several trillion cells in a body, whether it is the gentleman from Pennsylvania's cheek cell, one of the several trillion, or the cell on his skin or another cell, a cell of several trillion in a person's body, taking that one cell and taking out the 46 chromosomes and putting it in this egg.

And why are we doing it? Again, there is not a Member in this Chamber that wants to allow it to be done for the potentiality of creating a human being. Absolutely not. Illegal under both bills. But what we do want is the potentiality of literally saving tens of millions of lives with that. That reality is there. And if we pass the Weldon bill, we prevent that.

We will not prevent it in some other countries, but what we do, as amazing as it sounds, is we prevent that research from coming into the United States. Which again, as I said previously, I cannot conceive that one of my colleagues in this Chamber would ever have the ability to look a family member or any person, for that matter, in the eye, a quadriplegic, someone suffering from Parkinson's, and say they could not take the benefit of the research.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the defeat of the rule.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to remind my colleagues that everybody who came before the Committee on Rules with any kind of an amendment got their amendment, so I urge them not to defeat the rule. Yes, this is a complex issue; but we need to have a substantive debate on it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON).

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of the rule on House Resolution 2505, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act. It is a good and fair rule, and it allows for a full debate on this important issue at hand.

In light of recent scientific advances in genetic research, our society is faced with some difficult decisions, foremost among these is what value we place on human life. At first glance, human cloning appears to respect life because it mimics the creation of life. However, when we look closely at the manner in which this life is created, in a laboratory, and for what purpose, out of utility, one cannot help but see that cloning is actually the degradation of human life to a scientific curiosity.

Designing a life to serve our curiosity, timing its creation to fit our schedules, manipulating its genetic makeup to suit our desires, is the treatment of life as an object, not as an individual with its own identity and rights.

H.R. 2505, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act is a brave step in the right direction. This legislation amends U.S. law to ban human cloning by prohibiting the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer techniques to create human embryos. This act bans reproductive cloning and so-called therapeutic cloning.

Therapeutic cloning, as my colleagues know, is performed solely for the purpose of research. There is no intention in this process to allow the living organism to survive. While this bill does not restrict the use of cloning technology to produce DNA, cells other than human embryos, tissue or organs, it makes it unlawful for any person or entity, public or private, to perform cloning or to transport, receive, or import the results of such a procedure.

As my colleagues know, the high risk of failure, even in the most advanced cloning technologies, gives us pause. Even the so-called successful clones are highly likely to suffer crippling deformities and abnormalities after birth. Again, the push for scientific knowledge must not supercede our basic belief that human life is sacred.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the majority of Americans in support of this rule, to oppose the Greenwood substitute, and to support the carefully crafted bill of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) to prevent human cloning and to keep us from going down this dangerous road.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Ms. LOFGREN. I include for the RECORD two articles that outline the research by Johns Hopkins University about the cure of paralysis that was reported last week at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in New Orleans.

[From the Yale Bulletin & Calendar, Dec. 1, 2000]

TEAM USES PRIMATE'S OWN CELLS TO REPAIR SPINAL CORD INJURY

(By Jacqueline Weaver)

A Yale research team has transplanted stem cells from a primate to repair the protective sheath around the spinal cord in the same animal, an accomplishment that some day could help people with spinal cord injuries and multiple sclerosis.

''The concept is not ready for people, but the fact that it can be achieved in a primate is significant,'' says Jeffrey Kocsis, professor of neurology and neurobiology at the School of Medicine. ''Cells were taken from the same animal, with minimal neurological damage, and then injected to rebuild the myelin.''

In multiple sclerosis, the immune system goes awry and attacks the myelin. Damage to the myelin builds up over years, causing muscle weakness or paralysis, fatigue, dim or blurred vision and memory loss.

Using the primate's own cells to repair the myelin, which is a fatty sheath that surrounds and insulates some nerve cells, sidesteps a common problem in transplanting organs, explains the researcher. Patients generally have to take drugs to suppress their immune systems so that their bodies do not reject an organ obtained from a donor.

''We didn't even need to immunosuppress the primate,'' says Kocsis, who presented his findings last week at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in New Orleans.

The experiment involved collecting small amounts of tissue from the subventricular area of the primate brain using ultrasonography. The neural precursor cells, or stem cells, then were isolated and expanded in vitro using mitogen, an agent that promotes cell division.

At the same time, myelin was removed from the primate's spinal cord. the stem cells were then injected in the same spot to form new myelin to cover the nerve fibers.

''The lesions were examined three weeks after transplantation and we found the demyelinated axons were remyelinated,'' Kocsis says. ''These results demonstrate that autologous transplantation of neutral precursor cells in the adult non-human primate can remyelinate demyelinated axons, thus suggesting the potential utility of such an approach in remyelinating lesions in humans.''

[From the Times (London), July 26, 2001]

STEM CELL INJECTION HELPS MICE TO WALK AGAIN AS SCIENTISTS FIGHT FOR FUNDING

(Katty Kay in Washington and Mark Henderson, Science Correspondent)

A video showing mice that have been partially cured of paralysis by injections of human stem cells was released last night by American scientists. They are seeking to head off a ban on government funding of similar research.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore broke with standard scientific practice to screen the tape before details of their research have been formally published, in the hope that it will convince President Bush of the value of stem cell technology.

The U.S. Government is considering whether to outlaw all federal funding of studies using stem cells taken from human embryos, which promise to provide new treatments for many conditions, including paralysis and Parkinson's disease.